

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12
HA-05 /115 W

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R 311658Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7422
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 09770

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG LY CH SU
SUBJECT: GOE DEPLORES CHAD "CAPITULATION" TO LIBYA

1. SUMMARY. GOE OFFICIAL BELIEVES SABHA AGREEMENT
VIRTUALLY A CHADIAN "CAPITULATION" TO QADHAFI. EGYPTIANS
UNHAPPY THAT NUMAYRI LENT SUDANESE PRESTIGE TO MALLOUM'S
"SURRENDER". QADHAFI SEEN KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN RE
CHAD FOR MOMENT, WHILE FRENCH PRESENCE MERELY DELAYED
FINAL CAPITULATION UNTIL JUNE 7. GOE DOES NOT SEE
FEASIBLE WAY TO RESCUE CHAD. END SUMMARY.

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2. SABHA ACCORD. MFA AFRICAN DEPT DIRECTOR AMB AHMAD
SIDQI TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 30 THAT EIGHT-POINT MARCH 27
CHAD/LIBYA/NIGER/SUDAN/FROLINAT AGREEMENT REACHED AT
SABHA "ALMOST COMPLETE CAPITULATION" BY CHADIAN PRES
MALLOUM TO QADHAFI. EGYPTIANS AGHAIST THAT MALLOUM
GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY RECOGNIZED ITS OWN "PROVISIONAL"

STATUS, BUT ALSO GAVE OFFICIAL IMPRIMATUR TO FROLINAT FORE OF GOUKKOUNI. MILITARY COMMISSION, DESIGNED TO CHECK NON-EXISTENCE OF "FOREIGN" (I.E. FRENCH) TROOPS IN CHAD, WILL DOUBTLESS REPORT FRENCH PRESENCE AT JUNE 7 MEETING, PAVING WAY FOR "FINAL CAPITULATION": EXPLUSION OF FRENCH TROOPS.

3. SUDAN. SIDQI FOUND IT PARTICULARLY PAINFUL THAT NUMAYRI HAD DISPATCHED ABU AL-QASIM TO LEND SUDANESE PRESTIGE TO "COMEDY" AT SABHA. WHILE GOE REALIZES THAT SUDAN DESPAIRED OF ANY MEANINGFUL ACTION TO SHORE UP MALLOUM GOVERNMENT IN FACE OF PERSISTENT QADHAFI-BACKED ATTACKS, SUDANESE APPROVAL OF CHADIAN HUMILIATION NOT APPRECIATED IN CAIRO. EGYPTIANS REALIZE WHY NUMAYRI HAD CHOSEN TO REBUILD BRIDGES TO LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH SUCH ACTIONS SCARCELY HAVE WHOLE-HEARTED GOE APPROVAL, BUT FOR SUDAN TO PROVIDE CURTAIN FOR QADHAFI'S "GRASP FOR POWER" PARTICULARLY GALLING.

4. GOE BELIEVES THAT, UNTIL JUNE 7 MEETING, QADHAFI WILL SAVOR HIS "VICTORY" AND KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN. IF MALLOUM SOMEHOW ABLE TO RESIST FURTHER ENCROACHMENTS, QADHAFI MAY URGE NORTHERNERS TO SECEDE. IF QADHAFI CAN FORCE FRENCH TROOPS OUT OF CHAD, LIBYANS MAY SEEK INSTALLATION OF TAME PRO-LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, PERHAPS COMPOSED OF NORTHERNERS, IN NDJAMENA. WHATEVER QADHAFI
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PLANS FOR CHAD, SIDQI OPINED, ULTIMATE LIBYAN AIM IS PERMANENT RETENTION OF AOZOU STRIP, WITH OFFICIAL CHADIAN ACQUIESCENCE.

5. SIDQI THOUGHT RECENT ARRIVAL OF EXTRA FRENCH TROOPS MERELY DELAYS MOMENT OF "FINAL CAPITULATION", BUT DOES NOT AFFECT ULTIMATE OUTCOME. IF FRENCH PRESENCE IN CHAD ALTERED SITUATION SO LITTLE THAT VP DJIMI STILL FORCED TO "SURRENDER" TO LIBYA/FROLINAT, SIDQI SEES LITTLE CHOICE FOR CHADIANS, WHEN CRUNCH COMES AFTER JUNE 7 FOLLOW-UP MEETING, BUT TO AGREE TO EXPULSION OF ALL FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL, LEAVING DEMORALIZED GOVERNMENT FORCES AT MERCY OF FROLINAT.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE DESPERATE SITUATION, GOE CAN APPARENTLY SEE NO EGYPTIAN ACTION WHICH MIGHT ALLEVIATE MALLOUM'S DILEMMA. SIDQI NOTED THAT MALLOUM GOVERNMENT HOPELESSLY DIVIDED, THAT CHADIAN ARMY CANNOT FIGHT LIBYAN-BACKED REBELS, AND THAT FRENCH CANNOT DEFEND CHAD IF CHADIANS UNWILLING TO TAKE A HAND. GOE SEEMS BELIEVE MOMENT TO ASSIST CHADIANS MILITARILY HAS PASSED. IN EGYPTIAN EYES, CHADIAN FIASCO MERELY ANOTHER

IN TROUBLING SOVIET-ORCHESTRATED SERIES OF EVENTS
UNCONTROLLABLE FROM CAIRO: SOMALI DEFEAT IN OGADEN,
SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA, POSSIBLY INTENSIFIED FIGHTING IN
ERITREA (SEPTEL) AND SUDANESE REALIGNMENT. EILTS

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